

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation of claims 45, 46, 48, 49, 101, and 103 to 105, claims 44, 47, 50 to 100, and 102 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants express appreciation for the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

II. Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group I, i.e., claims 44 to 102, for further examination. Claims 103 to 105 have been canceled herein without prejudice.

III. Rejection of Claims 61, 62, 67, 72, 73, 76, 84, 85, 92 to 96, and 100 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Regarding the rejection of claims 61, 62, 67, 72, 73, 76, 84, 85, 92 to 96, and 100 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite, the Examiner will note that the claims have been amended herein in self-explanatory manner.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claims 44 to 46 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 44 to 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,632,469 ("Heun et al."). It is respectfully submitted that Heun et al. does not anticipate these claims for at least the following reasons.

Claim 44 relates to a compact drive, including: at least three drive components; a central housing part, each drive component surrounded by the central housing part; and at least one housing cover of the respective drive component to form a specific housing.

Although Applicants may not agree with the merits of the rejection, to facilitate matters, claim 44 has been amended to incorporate some of the features of claim 45 and the features of claims 46 and 60, and claims 45 and 46 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 44 as amended recites, in relevant parts, that **the drive components include an electric motor, a gear unit and an electronic circuit**, that **the electronic circuit includes a frequency converter**, and that **the frequency converter is positioned laterally with respect to a rotor shaft of the electric motor**.

Heun et al. describes an electric hoist, which includes an electric motor (2), a gear unit (3), a shaft (17) running between the motor (2) and the gear unit (3), a speed sensor (8), an electronic printed circuit board (19), a frequency converter (14) and a protective housing (10). However, **Heun et al. does not disclose, or even suggest, that a frequency converter is positioned laterally with respect to a rotor shaft of an electric motor. As is apparent from Figures 1 and 2, the frequency converter of Heun et al. is not positioned laterally with respect to shaft (17), but past an end (17a) of the shaft (17)**. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Heun et al. does not anticipate claim 44 for at least these reasons.

As mentioned above, claims 45 and 46 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the rejection with respect to these claims.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Rejection of Claims 47, 48 and 50 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 47, 48 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,838,106 ("Adams"). It is respectfully submitted that Adams does not anticipate these claims for at least the following reasons.

Claim 47 relates to a compact drive, having: at least three drive components including an electric motor; and a central housing part, a stator of the electric motor detachably connected to the central housing part.

Although Applicants may not agree with the merits of the rejection, to facilitate matters, claim 47 has been amended to incorporate some of the features of claim 48 and the features of claims 49 and 60, and claims 48 and 49 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 47 as amended recites, in relevant parts, that **at least three drive components include an electric motor, a gear unit and an**

electronic circuit, that the electronic circuit includes a frequency converter, and that the frequency converter is positioned laterally with respect to a rotor shaft of the electric motor.

Adams describes a rack and pinion steering gear assembly having a power assistance mechanism. The steering gear assembly includes a steering gear (1), a housing (2), a steering column (7) coupled to the steering gear via a shaft (6), a rack bar (3) with tie rods (5), and bellows (8). The power assistance mechanism is an auxiliary rack and pinion unit (9), which includes an auxiliary housing (10), an electric motor (23), a pinion shaft (18), an auxiliary pinion (12) and an auxiliary rack (11) that is attached to the rack and pinion steering gear assembly between a ball joint (4) and tie rod (5). However, Adams does not disclose, or even suggest, that a compact drive has an electric motor, a gear unit and an electronic circuit including a frequency converter, and that the frequency converter is positioned laterally with respect to a rotor shaft of the electric motor. As is apparent from Fig. 4, the auxiliary rack and pinion unit (9), which the Office Action apparently considers to constitute a compact drive, does not include an electronic circuit having a frequency converter, and therefore does not include a frequency converter positioned laterally with respect to a rotor shaft of the electric motor. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Adams does not anticipate claim 47 for at least these reasons.

As mentioned above, claim 48 has been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the rejection with respect to this claim.

As for claim 50, which depends from claim 47 and therefore includes all of the features of claim 47, it is respectfully submitted that Adams does not anticipate this dependent claim for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. Rejection of Claims 99 to 102 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 99 to 102 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,634,374 ("Depietri"). It is respectfully submitted that Depietri does not anticipate these claims for at least the following reasons.

Claim 99 relates to an axially offset, right-angle gear stage for a compact drive, including: a central housing part, each drive component surrounded

by the central housing part and at least one housing cover of a respective drive component to form a specific housing.

Although Applicants may not agree with the merits of the rejection, to facilitate matters, claim 99 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 101, and claim 101 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 99 as amended recites, in relevant part, that **the gear stage is arranged as a spiroid gear stage**.

Depietri describes a multi-stage angle drive reduction gear box (1) including a reduction gear housing (2), an input shaft (3), a spur gear (22) attached to one end of the input shaft (3), a spur gear (23) that is attached to one end of a rotatable shaft (24) and mates with spur gear (22), a pinion (25) that is attached to the other end of rotatable shaft (24) and mates with a crown gear (26), and an output shaft (4) to which crown gear (26) is attached. However, **Depietri does not disclose, or even suggest, that a gear stage is arranged as a spiroid gear stage. As indicated from column 2, line 60 to column 3, line 2 of Depietri, the reduction stage (18) of reduction gear box (1) is formed by the meshing of spur gear (22) with spur gear (23), and the reduction stage (21) of reduction gear box (1) is formed by the meshing of hypoid bevel pinion (25) and bevel crown gear (26). Thus, the reduction gear box (1) of Depietri includes a spur gear stage and a hypoid gear stage, but no spiroid gear stage.** Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Depietri does not anticipate claim 99 for at least these reasons.

As mentioned above, claim 101 has been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the rejection with respect to this claim.

As for claims 100 and 102, which depend from claim 99 and therefore include all of the features of claim 99, it is respectfully submitted that Depietri does not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VII. Rejection of Claims 47 to 50 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 47 to 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of Heun et al. and Adams. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Heun et al. and Adams does not render these claims unpatentable for at least the following reasons.

As an initial matter, claims 48 and 49 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the rejection with respect to these claims.

Regarding claim 47, as set forth in Sections IV and V of this response, neither Heun et al., nor Adams discloses, or even suggests, at least the feature of claim 47, that a frequency converter is positioned laterally with respect to a rotor shaft of an electric motor. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Heun et al. and Adams does not render claim 47 unpatentable for at least these reasons.

As for claim 50, which depends from claim 47 and therefore includes all of the features of claim 47, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Heun et al. and Adams does not render this dependent claim unpatentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

VIII. Allowable Subject Matter


Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 51 to 60, 63 to 66, 68 to 71, 74, 75, 77 to 83, 86 to 91, 97 and 98, as well as the indication of allowable subject matter contained in claims 61, 62, 67, 72, 73, 76, 84, 85 and 92 to 96. In this regard, the Examiner will note that as set forth in detail in Section III of this response, claims 61, 62, 67, 72, 73, 76, 84, 85 and 92 to 96 have been amended to overcome the aforementioned rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 61, 62, 67, 72, 73, 76, 84, 85 and 92 to 96, as amended, are in condition for immediate allowance.

IX. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending, non-withdrawn claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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